

BURIEN COMMUNITY CENTER SURVEY 2007-08
Invitation Web Survey Comments

Why you would likely vote this way on a property tax increase/bond levy to BUILD a new center

YES

- ♦ Burien needs an updated community center! It will provide a gathering place for all residents; provide recreation opportunities for everyone, especially teens and seniors who need low-cost, easy-to-access services; and gives the community a "heart" and sense of pride. Yes...definitely!
- ♦ I believe Burien needs such a facility for our kids, seniors and our own recreation and I'm willing to pay for that.
- ♦ I enjoy the local recreational programs, and want more!
- ♦ I think it would improve the feeling of connectedness to this community by more of the community. Would be nice to have an estimate of the property tax increase size.
- ♦ Improve the city.
- ♦ IT WOULD NEED TO BE A 100% UNION PROJECT WITH APPRENTICESHIP UTILIZATION. If so I would vote yes
- ♦ People want to live and recreate in their communities. Burien lacks in diverse parks and rec. Sooner than later is better
- ♦ This would be a great facility for all ages offering something for everyone without having to join a club with regular club fees. I especially like the recreation wing with pay-to-play accessibility.
- ♦ We need it! As a new homeowner, believe me that I'm worried about how I will pay for tax increases - but I also accept the current facility is not sustainable and that a new one will be a good thing overall for the community. I'll make use of the rec facilities for sure!
- ♦ what would be the structure of typical user fees?
- ♦ Community buildings in decline must be repaired or replaced. These efforts are worth paying for...
- ♦ Depends on how much of a tax increase.
- ♦ Final confirmation reserved until the measure is on the ballot for confirmation of actual costs.
- ♦ I support this project because this space is important for a vital community. I question the need for a swimming pool when there are already several in the area. Swimming pools add a lot to the building and operation costs of this project.
- ♦ I would like to attend the meetings and perhaps get involved in the logistical planning - I am uncomfortable leaving the planning to an architectural firm without recourse.
- ♦ I would like to know if the tax would go back down after the money was raised and the center built. or would this be a permanent increase?
- ♦ I would probably vote yes if you remove the pool. I would vote no if the pool is included.
- ♦ It would be desirable to have an estimate of the total project time-frame.
- ♦ It would depend upon the reviewing the strategy and future ability to raise funds to help support this.
- ♦ Revenue producing but what is the present usage? Teens vs older generation?
- ♦ There are a lot of "may also require...". Without a firm plan I can't say for certain how I would vote.
- ♦ Would hope that grants from state, county, country were pursued first before property owners.

NO

- ♦ Approximately \$15.00 per month per household is a bit steep for the economics of our community. I do not believe it is fair for the few to be carried by the many. Raise the membership/usage fees for the amenities for the local residence and double the fees for the non-residence.

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- ♦ Regarding the Burien Proposed community center;; 1.□The people who use the center now do not seem to be accommodated. Where is the Burien Little Theater? Where are the public restrooms?;
- 2.□The pool is not for swimming—it appears to be a soaking pool. We
- ♦ I understand there is no suitable place for a theater in this plan. I also do not understand why there is so much "water park" in the plan.
- ♦ OUR PROPERTY TAXES ARE WAY TOO HIGH AS IS AND MORE TAXES ARE JUST ; NOT AFFORDABLE. IF YOU WERE TO GO AHEAD AND BUILD THIS STRUCTURE, I FEEL THAT THOSE WHO WOULD USE IT SHOULD PAY FOR IT THROUGH USER FEES. DON'T JUST ADD TAXES TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, IF IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT THEY WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF. IN MY OPINION, THE CITY OF BURIEN HAS WASTED THOUSANDS TAX DOLLARS OVER THE YEARS. AND WITH THE "NEW TOWN SQUARE DEVELOPEMENT GOING ON, ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.
- ♦ Property taxes are already too high. I suggest corporate sponsorship.... ie: "The Starbucks Center". Or, since I would never EVER use this facility...it should be pay per use.
- ♦ Too much govt. Senior exemption to pay when they receive most direct benefit. Let us find our own activities. Did that before City of Burien came into being.
- ♦ We are overtaxed as it is and thus far our taxes have not been used wisely, so I would definitely not support paying even more with little to no accountability.

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UNCERTAIN

- ♦ The cost of the tax increase/bond levy.

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Would you be more likely to support a bond measure if funds were included for parks/rec improvements?

YES

- ♦ As a user of many of the parks I would like to see these maintained. These maintenance efforts are worth paying for.
- ♦ If the City used Responsible Contractors or did the work in house. Prohibit the use of independant 1099 contractors
- ♦ Our neighborhood was built many years ago and our services need to be updated. I am a lifetime member of this community and wholeheartedly support improvements to all of these facilities and services. Improvements to the parks and the recreation center would greatly improve accessibility and enhance enjoyment of these facilities for every member of the community.
- ♦ Parks and recreation are for everyone in Burien. People should be able to WALK to the park closest to their home. Not being kept up invites crime. We do not want that.
- ♦ The maintenance of parks and publicly owned facilities is extremely important for the face of the city - unmaintained facilities says to everyone, this is a shithole. I prefer not to live in one.
- ♦ Yes!!! Bathrooms!!! Dottie Harper park needs a vision!!
- ♦ Final confirmation reserved until the measure is on the ballot for confirmation of actual costs.
- ♦ I would like to have usage information on each neighborhood park.
- ♦ I would need more information about new projects before I could give full support.
- ♦ It would depend on how much our taxes increased. A reasonable amount I would still be willing to support.
- ♦ More information first please.
- ♦ Parks are really important and since I grew up in Seahurst/Burien I've seen the new parks be added but also, trees and facilities needing replacement or repairs. ; ; By the way - what is going on with the trees at Lk Burien Elementary School park? There was a study 9 months ago to replace these!

- ♦ See explanation on previous answer
- ♦ The better we keep up these public spaces, the more pride there is in the community.
- ♦ which parks? what specific improvements?

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Would you be more likely to support a bond measure if funds were included for parks/rec improvements?

NO

- ♦ I feel that the Community Center project will cost us enough.
- ♦ Improvements to the parks is great, but not at the loss of the only small theater space near Burien. The Little Theater is an asset to the Burien community.
- ♦ Money can be obtained from other sources. Fines for vandalism to the parks should be increased. Charge groups for using park facilities.
- ♦ NO BONDS OF ANY KIND. AND I'M AGAINST THE CITY TAKING ON THE NORTH HIGHLINE AREA ALSO. WE HAVE SO MANY LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN OUR AREA AND THEY WOULD BE THE ONES EXEMPTED FROM PAYING THEIR SHARE AND WOULD BE THE ONES TO USE ALL THE FACILITIES.
- ♦ Perfect example of govt expansion. Your statement "need improvement and repairs", yet next few words state "NEW" playgrounds. I've been in Burien 32 years and very acle to find my own activities, thank you.
- ♦ Read the second sentence... the word "COULD" should have been the word "WILL" include...
- ♦ See my previous statement.
- ♦ Trying to use "parks" as a Trojan Horse to get funding for other pet projects(community center) doesn't work.Look at what happened to Sound transit and the Prop. 1 measure.

UNCERTAIN

- ♦ I would rather it go to the community center
- ♦ The return on the investment.

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Why you would likely vote this way on a property tax increase to OPERATE a new center

YES

- ♦ Absolutly. How can you build it with out staffing it.
- ♦ Again it would have to be a 100% Union Project so that I knew I was getting my monies worth. I don't feel that way with any of the Town Square Projects.
- ♦ Community Centers must have some source for operating costs. This increase is a good way to help this.
- ♦ I know it's a crazy idea, but I am willing to pay for services. Even if I don't use them directly I benefit from the higher standard.
- ♦ I vote locally, where it makes the most difference. These are important things for our local community.
- ♦ I'm willing to pay for the on-going support of this facility.
- ♦ These are the types of facilities a community needs to have available to all of its members. I strongly support building and operating a recreation center of this size and quality.
- ♦ Final confirmation reserved until the measure is on the ballot for confirmation of actual costs.
- ♦ I would like more citizen involvement in how we spend our dollars ~ for example, we are being charged for Burien Parks and Rec on our utility bills - how did this happen?
- ♦ I would not support an increase in taxes to pay pool operating costs.
- ♦ it would be worth it if they had the really nice pool. and the user fees where low enuf that our low income familys that really need it would be able to use it.
- ♦ My bit of uncertainty comes with the planning. Is the building planned efficiently, low maintenance, etc.? I want to trust my leaders that they have thought this through. I want to see a green building, healthy building, (rain, sun, natural materials...have they all been considered?)

- ♦ My property taxes (and all others, for that matter) continue to rise, while my income does not.
- ♦ See previous explanations

NO

- ♦ I think that there should be a membership charge for the use of the recreational facility and revenue from the renting of the community portion would be what I would support. Paid for by those who use it.
- ♦ It costs more to operate a swimming pool than other aspects of the new facility. I would support taxes for general operating costs, but not for a swimming pool.
- ♦ I'M NOT IN FAVOR OF ANY BOND MEASURE TO BUILD THIS CENTER OR A RAISE IN PROPERTY TAXES TO KEEP ONE GOING.
- ♦ More expansion of govt bureaucrats just what we don't need nor want.
- ♦ Property taxes are already too high. There have to be priorities. Charge "per use" for this facility. Involve local businesses for funds.... ie: "The Bartell Center"...."The Starbucks Center".
- ♦ See previous statement.
- ♦ The need for money operating appears to come from a lavish "water park," that seems like much more than is necessary.

UNCERTAIN

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- ♦ Need more info! I love the new rec/community center plans. But if we are building something that user fees + current levels of City funding won't support - even considering that with new and expanded programs, user fees at the center will increase, then we need to rethink. I believe in supporting rec/community center programs but another half a million each year from property taxes instead of sharing that a bit more with user fees, seems excessive. I appreciate that many potential users in Burien can't afford fees. Can we not explore grant-funding possibilities to help low-income households get access to the programs the new Center will have? Just a thought! (I'm a grantwriter - I'm sure there are possible sources for this).
- ♦ Would like a better idea of what goes into "operation"

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Please tell us why you are in favor of, against or uncertain about the fee structure

YES

- ♦ I believe user fees are the proper way to support a program so that those who benefit most pay the cost
- ♦ I believe users need to pay a portion of the costs for these facilities.
- ♦ It looks like a reasonable cost for the benefit. Compare this to almost ten bucks for a movie or dinner or a few minutes at an arcade.
- ♦ These sound reasonable. Montly and annual passes should be available to residents only.
- ♦ They are reasonable daily fees. With discounts for monthly and annula passes it's fair.
- ♦ THOSE WHO USE IT SHOULD PAY FOR THEIR USE THROUGH USER FEES, BUT AGAIN I SAY I'M NOT FOR USING TAX DOLLARS OF BURIEN CITIZENS FOR A FACILITY THAT I'M NOT GOING TO USE OR HAVE ANY ONE IN MY FAMILY USE.
- ♦ Very fair, compared to the rest of the community centers.
- ♦ Fair to me
- ♦ I am not a resident of Burien. In fact I live in the "Black Hole" neighborhood that some Burien and Seattle residents DO NOT want annexed. If fee structures are based on resident status I can understand... however, I would at this time not be benefitting from this.
- ♦ I voted "probably okay" because I am unfamiliar with fees charged by other facilities.
- ♦ I would like to see non resident pay slightly higher.
- ♦ I would prefer annual subscriptions; however, for those who only use these services occasionally, pay-to-play is ideal!
- ♦ if that fee would cover doing anything from jogging to playing in the pool I think that is very fair.
- ♦ I'm in favor of the fee structure assuming a monthly or annual pass would be cheaper than say compared to my gym membership
- ♦ should be cheaper especially with tax increase
- ♦ The fees are okay depending on the services they are receiving. If it's for the pool/gym, that's too much as they could go to a nicer gym for less.
- ♦ There should be a seperate fee for organized sports for kids. Or a yearly pass
- ♦ Would like to see the fees for rental of rooms/kitchen or other fees
- ♦ Would rather see increase in tax to lower fees

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Please tell us why you are in favor of, against or uncertain about the fee structure

NO

- ♦ It seems your trying to build a athletic club. Cities shouldn't be in the buisness of clubs. Make the fees for classes, pools, meetings. But, I wouldn't count on 250K in user fees a year.
- ♦ Looks pretty high to me for a daily use. So if I wanted to walk around the recreational track I would have to pay \$5? Kids don't have any money. The pool would be a high maintenance so it should be chargeable but other things should be very low or free.
- ♦ prices seem a little high.
- ♦ Seniors should have free use of this facility. They have been paying taxes for their entire lives, and deserve to have the option to stay healthy. I would also request that a drivers' license or proof of citizenship is required to show that the user pays taxes into the system.
- ♦ After paying \$5,400 per lot worth \$300,000 to build the center (\$15/month x 12 months x 30 years) the public should not be required to use the center. It is free to use it now.
- ♦ It's way too cheap. The YMCA is much more. I would double the fees and get rid of the idea of raising property taxes.
- ♦ The youth fees are too low. Most of the damage to the existing facility is caused not only by years of wear and tear, but by the destruction of property caused by uncaring youth. Charge a daily skate-park fee. Off set some of the cost by adding a recyling fee for all "Liquid Products" that are sold from local merchants and machines.
- ♦ Too rigid a fee structure, and too high a cost for regular users, which form the core of the community that makes centers such as this work.

UNCERTAIN

- ♦ Compare \$5/day to daily fees for use of private gym facilities - seems like many will opt to not use the center if all they want to do is say, use the walking track for an hour. I know it's more complicated but I suggest a fee not per day but per actual cost of using/maintaining the different facilities - pools, \$5 or even \$7 makes sense. Walking track? \$2 or \$3 makes more sense. At least to me.
- ♦ This seems like a reasonable fee structure but it doesn't tell me what I get for the fee - is the pool, gym, fitness rooms, etc included in this fee? How about meeting room rentals, etc?
- ♦ Your monthly and annual rates would have to be in line with the fact that health club rates are about \$200 to \$300 per year (excluding HAC which has a pool.)
- ♦
- ♦
- ♦
- ♦
- ♦
- ♦
- ♦
- ♦
- ♦

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Additional suggestions or comments

- ♦ I would like to request that the pool is looked at by professional aquatic personnel. The Firstenberg pool in Vancouver was incorrectly concreted, and they lost an entire foot of depth, which puts their clients at risk when using the pool for exercise. The pool depth must be not less for 4.5 feet at the deep end for exercise classes.
- ♦ Burien Little Theater? Where is that going to be? Just believe that what we have in our community should continue on.
- ♦ Emphasis community and less recreation. I think the pool is nice, but there are a lot of pools around here already.
- ♦ I am against getting rid of existing programs like the Little Theater.
- ♦ Have the front of the Center facing the skate-park. Make everyone walk by or thru the skate-park area so that we can keep the garbage, alcohol and drug use down. Access from both 146th and 144 are great ideas. Keep it off 4th ave SW.
- ♦ I think you should be polling people on use and see how much it will actually be utilised before you start charging everyone.
- ♦ I would donate my time and energy to defeat any attempt to raise property taxes for a fancy community center. Raise fees! Gain local business support!
- ♦ It is quite evident in the language of the survey (improvement, repair - NEW) that regardless of what the resident voters of Burien want something suggested by the survey (planning firm) will be pushed forward. Please don't waste more taxpayer dollars on exorbitant surveys leading to either more paper weights or to higher taxes.
- ♦ Lose the pool and I am a whole-hearted supporter!
- ♦ I am all for it. Even though I am not involved in anything, I know the value of it for the area as a whole and this kind of endeavor encourages the overall esteem of everyone living here.
- ♦ I love to swim and there is not a lot of swimming pools in the area.; Burien needs one.
- ♦ STOP WASTING THE TAX DOLLARS THAT YOU ARE GETTING FROM US TAX PAYERS.; WHAT WILL THE OLD LIBRARY BE USED FOR WHEN THE NEW ONE IS BUILT?
- ♦ I am for the new community center. I believe that these centers are very beneficial to the entire community. Good luck with all your efforts!